was originally intended. The shifting of the location of the RLU has been decided with a view to avoiding problems during the construction of the multi storeyed building planned at Cumballa Hill.

(b) No Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The RLU was not intended to serve the Peddar Road Area only. This was intended to take over part of the Gamdevi Area which includes Peddar Road.

(d) The question does not arise in view of replies to parts (a), (b) and (c) above.

(e) New Electronic Exchange at Cumballa Hill is likely to be commissioned during 1995-96.

Demand from subscribers to get number from New Electronic Exchange

2528. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bombay city the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Bombay in numerous Exchange Areas have old Exchange and New Electronic Exchange serving subscribers in the same area;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand from subscribers to get numbers from the New Electronic Exchanges;

(c) whether it is a fact that frequently requests are received by MTNL for change of numbers to the New Electronic Exchanges;

(d) whether the Nigam has received complaints that the numbers are changed for monetary consideration;

(e) what are the basis for allotment of numbers of Electronic Exchanges to new subscribers or old subseribers; and

(f) what concrete steps are being taken to stop this malpractice in Bombay City.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some requests have been received.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received.

(e) The following criteria are normally adopted for allotment of electronic exchange numbers to new and old subscribers:

(i) Some areas/buildings are earmarked as 100 per cent electronic areas and all subscribers in these areas get electronic exchange numbers.

(ii) subscribers of Public importance like hospitals, police stations, Railway stations, Govt. Offices etc. are allotted electronic exchange numbers subject to availability.

(iii) Private subscribers having high calling rate on STD are allotted electronic exchange numbers subject to availability.

(f) The powers for change of non-electronic exchange numbers to electronic exchange numbers have been withdrawn from junior officers and vested only with senior officers to avoid malpractices.

Premises of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Bombay

2529. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bombay City at Ghatkopar (East) at Hingwala Lane there is a premises of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Bombay;

(b) whether it is a fact that MTNL has shortage of space;